

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/673,455
Attorney Docket No.: Q77769

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 11 and 12 presently stand rejected. Claims 2-10 and 13-21 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 12 to include the features of claims 2 and 13, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant cancels claims 2 and 13. In addition, Applicant amends claims 3 and 14 for conformity therewith.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawings filed on June 23, 2004.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority and for indicating receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Documents.

Finally, Applicant's thank the Examiner for returning the initialed form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 23, 2004.

The Examiner has objected to the claims because the words of the claims are too crowded. The enclosed listing of claims is believed to obviate the Examiner's objection to the claims.

Prior Art Rejections and Statement of the Substance of the Interview

Please review and enter the following remarks summarizing the interview conducted on December 13, 2005 between Examiner Thinh H. Nguyen and Nataliya Dvorson. An Examiner's

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Interview Summary Record (PTO-413) has not been received as of the filing of this Amendment.

The Statement of Substance of the Interview is as follows:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courteous telephonic interviews on December 13, 2005. The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,312,077 to Araki (hereinafter "Araki"). During the interview, possible amendments to claim 1 were discussed to overcome the rejection of record. The Examiner, however, indicated that these amendments would require further search and consideration.

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claims 1 and 12 to include the features of claims 2 and 13, respectively, which contain allowable subject matter, thereby, placing this application in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dvorson', is written over a horizontal line.

Nataliya Dvorson
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: February 28, 2006

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